

Serial No. 09/996,276

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 24-27 are now pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-8, 14-16, 17, 19 22-23 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes (US Patent No. 6,854,009) and further in view of Kumar (US Patent No 6,965,929). The Examiner asserts that Hughes teaches all of the claim limitations except the limitation of configuration details including an IP address, which is taught by Kumar (Col 2, lines 12-23, 60-67). Claims 2-3, 9-13, 18 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes and Kumar above, and further in view of Suzuki (US Patent No. 6,529,479). Suzuki teaches the additional limitation of a DHCP server (Col. 3, lines 5-19).

Hughes describes what is now known as a "thin client" system. The thin-client is directed at dynamically configuring an OS and software applications on a client computer from a remote server (col 4, lines 49-54). This can be very useful to avoid forcing consumers to continually purchase new hardware and software and go through the installation and configuration processes (col 1, l 59-63). It is also very useful for consumers who travel a lot and want to be able to use a generic terminal but have access to their OS and software applications (col. 6, lines 35-42). The thin-client "assumes" the gateway/modem has already been configured to establish an internet connection for requesting and downloading the OS and software (col 3, lines 65-67). The value of the thin-client is that it is user-specific and device-agnostic. A user can log on to any client computer via any gateway/modem connection and access his/her OS and software applications (col 6, l 38-39). The user pays for the services and when done they are removed from temporary storage in the computer.

Claim 1 and each of the other independent claims as previously presented includes at least four features not taught by Hughes or the combination of Hughes and Kumar. First, claim 1 is directed at configuring an IP communication device such as a DSL gateway or cable modem. Hughes teaches a method of configuring the OS and software applications on a computer, not the gateway/modem. Second, claim 1 specifies that the request contains a "unique bi-directional IP communication device identifier ... associated with a unique user". In other words, a specific

Serial No. 09/996,276

device is tied to a specific user to retrieve configuration details for that device. The whole point of the thin-client is that the system is user-specific and device-agnostic. Third, claim 1 specifies that the device identifier is "stored in the IP communication device". Since the thin-client is device-agnostic, a user can access any client computer. There is no way that the gateway/modem associated with an arbitrary computer the user may choose in his/her home, business, library, airport or foreign country could know ahead of time and store a device identifier that is associated with that unique user. Lastly, claim 1 specifies receiving basic configurations details including an IP address. Receipt of an IP address is essential to initial configuration of the gateway/modem but once that IP address is known and the internet connection established there is no reason that an IP address would be returned with the OS and software applications.

Applicant would also draw the Examiner's attention to claims 16, 21, 22 and 26 that specify storing a configuration table listing device identifiers, the associated users, and each user's basic configuration details in a server. The IP communication device broadcasts a request containing its unique device identifier. In response, the server matches the device identifier to a unique user in the table and transmits the basic configuration details back to the IP communication device. This feature is not taught nor suggested by the cited art of record.

Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-22 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103 have been overcome.

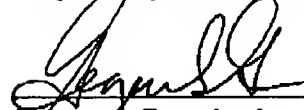
II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Serial No. 09/996,276

Respectfully submitted,


Georgann Grunebach
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 33,179

Date: April 7, 2006

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
RE/R8/A109
2250 E. Imperial Highway
P. O. Box 956
El Segundo CA 90245

Telephone No. (310) 964-4615